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A.—(*a*) *to* (*e*) A statement [a] giving the figures as they stood on 30th September 1932 is laid on the table. Later figures are not available.

(*f*) The question will be examined when a definite improvement in the financial position of the Province has established itself.

Repairs to the Marandai channel in the Tinnevelly district.

* 478 *Q.*—Mr. M. DEVADASAN: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Marandai channel and anicut under the Chittar river in the Tinnevelly district have been in a very bad state of disrepair for a number of decades;

(*b*) whether numerous representations have been made to various officers of the Government from time to time about the same;

(*c*) whether a memorial has been received from the Tinnevelly District Association about the critical condition of the current pishanam crops on over 500 acres of ryotwari wet lands under the channel;

(*d*) whether the Tank Restoration Scheme Party investigated the Marandai channel and anicut in or about 1926 and prepared an estimate for the repairs and improvement of the same;

(*e*) what the action, if any, taken by the Government so far is in regard to the execution of the work and when if at all the Government propose to take up the same;

(*f*) what the amounts of contribution are which the Government desire to obtain from the Uttumalai Estate and the Inamdar of Vellakal in respect of the estimated expense and what the basis is for the ascertainment of the same;

(*g*) what the steps taken so far either by negotiations or otherwise are to settle the question and the terms of contribution and what the result of the same is;

(*h*) what the replies are of the Uttumalai Estate and the Inamdar of Vellakal for the claims for contribution;

(*i*) whether legal opinion has been taken by the Government in regard to the same; and

(*j*) whether it is the intention of the Government to wait until the question of contribution is settled before taking up the work of repairs of the Marandai channel?

A.—(*a*) No. The channel was repaired in 1892 and 1904.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Government have not the information but an estimate for improvements and repairs was submitted in 1930.

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 255 infra.

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(e) The Government approved the estimates in 1931 but the execution of the work is in abeyance.

(f) The estimates are to be revised as additional repairs and improvements are contemplated. The amounts of contribution will be fixed after the actual amounts of the estimates are known. The basis for the apportionment of contribution is the acreage belonging to the several interests irrigated by the channel—viz., ryotwari, zamindari and inam.

(g) The proposals of the Public Works Department have been sent to the Zamindar of the estate for acceptance and the local officers have been asked to expedite the settlement.

(h) The Uttumalai Estate is willing to pay the contribution. The Inamdar of Vellegal has refused to pay.

(i) Yes.

(j) The works contemplated are in the nature of (1) improvements and (2) repairs. The orders issued in 1931 directed the execution of the repairs forthwith as no question of contribution was involved therein. Now the estimates for both the improvements and repairs are undergoing revision as additional works are considered necessary. The repairs will be put in hand immediately after the revised estimate is sanctioned, and the improvements will be put in hand after the question of contribution is settled.

Mr. M. Devadasan:—"With reference to (d), may I know whether the Government will be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"Yes, Sir. I will call for the information."

Memorandum presented by the Tinnevelly District Association to the Executive Engineer regarding disafforestation in the Singampatti zamin hills.

* 479 *Q.*—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tinnevelly District Association presented a memorandum to the Executive Engineer at the Ryots' Conference held in Tinnevelly on 21st November 1932, about disafforestation in the Singampatti zamin hills and the State hills in the catchment basin of the upper portion of the Tambraparni river;

(b) whether the Executive Engineer promised to investigate the question;

(c) what action has been taken till now and what the result of the same is; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the report of the investigation?